

By: Branch

H.R. No. 759

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, March 6, 2011, marks the 175th anniversary of the
2 fall of the Alamo, one of the most famous episodes in Texas history;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, On December 9, 1835, an army of Texas volunteers
5 captured San Antonio de Bexar from a force of Mexican soldiers under
6 the command of General Martin Perfecto de Cos; Lieutenant Colonel
7 James Clinton Neill was then placed in command of the Alamo, which
8 enjoyed a strategic position because of its location on one of the
9 two main roads stretching from Mexico into Texas; and

10 WHEREAS, Notwithstanding the small number of men in his
11 command and a lack of provisions, Colonel Neill was determined to
12 hold the Alamo; his troops were augmented slightly over the
13 following weeks: Colonel James Bowie arrived with a detachment of
14 30 men on January 19, 1836; Lieutenant Colonel William Barret
15 Travis rode in at the head of 30 cavalrymen on February 3, and David
16 Crockett and 12 other volunteers entered the fort on about February
17 8; and

18 WHEREAS, Colonel Neill left the Alamo in mid-February to help
19 his family, which had been struck by illness, and command of the
20 regular soldiers fell to Colonel Travis, while Colonel Bowie
21 assumed command of the volunteers; and

22 WHEREAS, On February 23, a Mexican army of about 6,000 men
23 under the command of Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna reached San
24 Antonio; after a demand for the fort's surrender was rejected with a

1 cannon shot, the Mexican artillery began an assault on the Alamo's
2 perimeter walls; and

3 WHEREAS, The following day, February 24, Colonel Bowie fell
4 seriously ill and command of the volunteers passed to Colonel
5 Travis; facing terrible odds but committed to the mission before
6 him, Travis penned a desperate plea for reinforcements; his letter,
7 addressed "To the People of Texas and all Americans in the world,"
8 pledged that he would "never surrender or retreat" and concluded
9 with the defiant words "Victory or Death"; and

10 WHEREAS, On March 1, while the siege continued, Lieutenant
11 George Kimbell and a company of 32 soldiers slipped through the
12 Mexican lines and joined the Alamo garrison; the large number of men
13 that Travis hoped for, however, never arrived; finally, about 5
14 a.m. on March 6, General Santa Anna sent some 1,800 assault troops
15 surging toward the fort; within 90 minutes the battle was over, and
16 the few surviving defenders were quickly executed; while the
17 official list of Alamo soldiers who died numbers 189, the actual
18 number may be as high as 257; the number of Mexican troops wounded
19 or killed is estimated to have been about 600; and

20 WHEREAS, The 13 days that General Santa Anna devoted to
21 capturing the fort cost Mexico dearly; while he delayed his
22 advance, the convention of Texas delegates meeting in
23 Washington-on-the-Brazos had time to adopt a declaration of
24 independence, draft a constitution, and form an interim government;
25 moreover, news of the garrison's destruction fired the Texas army
26 with a fierce resolve, and on April 21, 1836, the battlefield at San
27 Jacinto echoed with cries of "Remember the Alamo"; and

1 WHEREAS, Since those fateful days in 1836, the story of the
2 Alamo has reached audiences around the world; the Alamo remains one
3 of the state's most important historical landmarks, and the Alamo
4 defenders who gave their lives within its walls will forever be
5 honored for their gallantry and courageous sacrifice in the cause
6 of freedom; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
8 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the fallen heroes of the Battle of
9 the Alamo, whose immeasurable selflessness and bravery helped give
10 rise to an independent Texas.